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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 769  
By Burchett

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate professional tennis player, Chris Woodruff, of Knoxville.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is very pleased to specially recognize our professional athletes whose talents have enabled them to ascend to unparalleled gifted heights in their sport; and

WHEREAS, Knoxville native, Chris Woodruff, is clearly one such talented professional; and

WHEREAS, born on January 2, 1973, in Knoxville, Chris showed early signs of his future greatness as a gifted high school tennis player; and

WHEREAS, highlights of his brilliant United States Junior Championship career included being the United States National Junior Champion, singles and doubles runner-up six times; the 1989 United States Tennis Association National Indoor Boys' 18 Doubles Championship winner; the 1990 USTA National Clay Court Boys' 18 Singles Championship winner; and the 1991 Easter Bowl Boys' 18 singles winner; and

WHEREAS, Chris then attended the University of Tennessee, where he was once again a leader and star for the Volunteers; and

WHEREAS, during the 1991-1992 season, he was a National Collegiate Athletic Association singles All-American, was selected ITCA National and Region III Rookie of the

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Year, received the *Tennis Magazine* Junior Sportsmanship Award, was ranked as the 12<sup>th</sup> best player in the nation by the ITCA/Volvo Collegiate Poll, and won the Milwaukee Tennis Classic singles title; and

WHEREAS, his exceptional 1992-1993 record included being the NCAA Collegiate Tennis Championships singles winner, the Southeastern Conference Men's Tennis Championships singles winner, the Rolex Collegiate Player of the Year, being named an NCAA singles and doubles All-American, achieving a number one ranking in the prestigious ITCA/Volvo Tennis Collegiate Poll, receiving the USTA Sportsmanship Award, and selection as the Southeastern Conference Tennis Player of the Year, and being a member of the SEC Scholar/Athlete Honor Roll; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, Chris burst on to the professional tennis scene, becoming the USA Segment V Satellite singles total points winner, the USA Segment III Satellite doubles total points winner, and a doubles winner of the USA Segment III Satellite Masters' Tournament; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, he won both the Week 3 USA Segment III Singles Satellite Tournament, held in Austin, Texas; the doubles event at the Binghamton Tennis Classic and was a singles finalist at the Bronx Pro Tennis Classic; and

WHEREAS, 1995 was another banner year for Chris as he captured singles championships in the First Aruba Open, France II Satellite Melun Master's Tournament, and the France II Satellite Compeigne; and a doubles title in the Fifth Third Bank Tennis Classic. He was also the France II Satellite singles total points winner; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, he won the singles title at the Heilbronn Open, the doubles title at the Lippstadt Challenge, was a doubles finalist at the Stockholm Open, the Kuepper Koelseb Cup, and the Legg Nason Washington Tennis Classic, and a singles finalist at both the America's Red Clay Championships and the Comcast United States Indoor Championships; and

WHEREAS, victories came over Thomas Muster, Andrei Chesnokov, Cedric Pioline, Andre Agassi, Vincent Spadea, Richard Fromberg, Javier Frana, Mark Philippoussis, Michael Joyce, Marcelo Rios, Todd Woodbridge, David Riki, Jean-Philippe Fleurian, Jan Krosiak, Grant Stafford, Mark Knowles and Stephane Simian; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, he won the fabled du Maurier Canadian Singles Open, was a singles quarterfinalist at the AT&T Challenge, a singles semifinalist at the United States Men's Claycourt Championships, a singles semifinalist at the Franklin Templeton Tennis Classic, a singles quarterfinalist at the Kroeger St. Jude tournament, and a singles quarterfinalist at the Sybase Open; and

WHEREAS, after sitting out of competition in 1998 with a knee injury, Chris returned to competition in 1999; he was appropriately recognized by a vote of his peers as the ATP Tour Comeback Player of the Year, won the Hall of Fame singles championship, in Newport, Rhode Island, was a finalist in that tournament in the doubles event, was a semifinalist in singles at the Newsweek Championship Cup Tournament, and was a doubles finalist at the Heilbronn Open; and

WHEREAS, already in 2000, Chris has won the fifth and deciding singles match for the United States Davis Cup team, in competition at Harare, Zimbabwe; and was a singles quarterfinalist at both the Citrix Tennis Championships and the Australian Open Championships; and

WHEREAS, Chris Woodruff has had an ATP singles ranking of 29, ATP doubles ranking of 73, and a Championship Cup singles ranking of 9; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to specially recognize this stellar athlete on his many outstanding accomplishments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Chris Woodruff on his successful tennis career

and numerous contributions to the sport, wishing him much continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.